

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ for processing data, said apparatus comprising:

(i) a processor core operable to execute operations as specified by instructions of a first instruction set, said processor core having an instruction pipeline into which instructions of said first instruction set and instructions of a second instruction set that are to be executed are fetched from a memory and along which instructions progress; and

(ii) an instruction translator operable to translate instructions of a second instruction set into translator output signals corresponding to instructions of said first instruction set; wherein

(iii) said instruction translator is within said instruction pipeline and translates instructions of said second instruction set that have been fetched into said instruction pipeline from said memory;

(iv) at least one instruction of said second instruction set specifies a multi-step operation that requires a plurality of operations ~~that may~~ be specified by instructions of said first instruction set in order to be performed by said processor core; and

(v) said instruction translator is operable to generate a sequence of translator output signals to control said processor core to perform said multi-step operation.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein said translator output signals include signals forming an instruction of said first instruction set.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein said translator output signals include control signals that control operation of said processor core and ~~match~~ are the same as control signals produced on decoding instructions of said first instruction set.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein said translator output signals include control signals that control operation of said processor core and specify parameters not specified by control signals produced on decoding instructions of said first instruction set.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein said processor core fetches instructions from an instruction address within said memory specified by a program counter value held by said processor core.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in claim 5, wherein, when an instruction of said second instruction set is executed, said program counter value is advanced by an amount that is independent of whether or not said instruction of said second instruction set specifies a multi-step operation.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in claim 5, wherein, when an instruction of said second instruction set is executed, said program counter value is advanced to specify a next instruction of said second instruction set to be executed.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in claim 5, wherein said program counter value is saved if an interrupt occurs when executing instructions of said second instruction set ~~so~~ and is used to restart execution of said instructions of said second instruction set after said interrupt.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein instructions of said second instruction set specify operations to be executed upon stack operands held in a stack.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein said processor has a register bank containing a plurality of registers and instructions of said first instruction set execute operations upon register operands held in said registers.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in claim 10, wherein a set of registers within said register bank ~~hold~~ holds stack operands from a top portion of said stack.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in claim ~~9~~ 11, wherein said instruction translator has a plurality of mapping states in which different registers within said set of registers hold respective stack operands from different positions within said stack, said instruction translator being operable to move between mapping states in dependence upon operations that add or remove stack operands held within said stack.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a bypass path within said instruction pipeline such that said instruction translator may be bypassed when instructions of said second instruction set are not being processed.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein said instructions of said second instruction set are Java Virtual Machine bytecodes.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of processing data using a processor core having an instruction pipeline into which instructions of said first instruction set and instructions of a second instruction set that are to be executed are fetched from a memory and along which instructions progress, said processor core being operable to execute operations specified by instructions of a first instruction set, said method comprising the steps of:

- (i) fetching instructions into said instruction pipeline; and
- (ii) translating fetched instructions of a second instruction set into translator output signals corresponding to instructions of said first instruction set using an instruction translator within said instruction pipeline; wherein
- (iii) at least one instruction of said second instruction set specifies a multi-step operation that requires a plurality of operations ~~that may~~ be specified by instructions of said first instruction set in order to be performed by said processor core; and
- (iv) said instruction translator is operable to generate a sequence of translator output signals to control said processor core to perform said multi-step operation.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~holding~~ including a computer program for controlling a computer to perform the method of claim ~~13~~ 15.

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for processing data, said apparatus comprising:

(i) a processor core operable to execute operations as specified by instructions of a first instruction set, said processor core having an instruction pipeline into which instructions of said first instruction set and instructions of a second instruction set that are to be executed are fetched from a memory and along which instructions progress; and

(ii) an instruction translator operable to translate instructions of a second instruction set into translator output signals corresponding to instructions of said first instruction set; wherein said instructions of said second instruction set are variable length instructions;

(iii) ~~said instructions of said second instruction set are variable length instructions;~~
said instruction translator is within said instruction pipeline and translates instructions of said second instruction set that have been fetched into a fetch stage of said instruction pipeline from said memory; and

(iv) said fetch stage of said instruction pipeline includes an instruction buffer holding at least a current instruction word and a next instruction word fetched from said memory such that if a variable length instruction of said second instruction set starts within said current instruction word and extends into said next instruction word, then said next instruction word is available within said pipeline for translation by said instruction translator without requiring a further fetch operation.

18. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said instruction buffer is a swing buffer.

19. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said fetch stage includes a plurality of multiplexers for selecting a variable length instruction from one or more of said current instruction word and said next instruction word.

20. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said instructions of said second instruction set are Java Virtual Machine bytecodes.

21. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a bypass path within said instruction pipeline such that said instruction translator may be bypassed when instructions of said second instruction set are not being processed.

22. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein

(i) at least one instruction of said second instruction set specifies a multi-step operation that requires a plurality of operations ~~that may~~ be specified by instructions of said first instruction set in order to be performed by said processor core; and

(ii) said instruction translator is operable to generate a sequence of translator output signals to control said processor core to perform said multi-step operation.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method of processing data using a processor core operable to execute operations as specified by instructions of a first instruction set, said processor core having an instruction pipeline into which instructions of said first instruction set and instructions of a second instruction set that are to be executed are fetched from a memory and along which instructions progress, said method comprising the steps of:

(i) fetching instructions into said instruction pipeline; and

(ii) translating fetched instructions of a second instruction set into translator output signals corresponding to instructions of said first instruction set using an instruction translator within said instruction pipeline; wherein said instructions of said second instruction set are variable length instructions;

(iii) ~~said instructions of said second instruction set are variable length instructions~~; said instruction translator is within said instruction pipeline and translates instructions of said second instruction set that have been fetched into a fetch stage of said instruction pipeline from said memory; and

(iv) said fetch stage of said instruction pipeline includes an instruction buffer holding at least a current instruction word and a next instruction word fetched from said memory such that if a variable length instruction of said second instruction set starts within said current instruction word and extends into said next instruction word, then said next instruction word is available within said pipeline for translation by said instruction translator without requiring a further fetch operation.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product ~~holding~~ including a computer program for controlling a computer to perform the method of claim 24.

26. (Canceled).

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27. (Canceled).

28. (Canceled).